

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No.

Magi No. CE-130

DOE yes no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic Mitchell - Crowgey Farm

and/or common Mrs. A. E. Mitchell Farm (Lake, Griffing and Stevenson Atlas, 1877)
Elkton Farms

2. Location

street & number West side of Route 213 between Frenchtown and Whitehall not for publication N/A

Roads

city, town Elkton _____ vicinity of _____ congressional district _____

state Maryland _____ county Cecil County

3. Classification

| Category | Ownership | Status | Present Use |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <u> </u> district | <u> </u> public | <u> X </u> occupied | <u> X </u> agriculture |
| <u> X </u> building(s) | <u> X </u> private | <u> </u> unoccupied | <u> </u> commercial |
| <u> </u> structure | <u> </u> both | <u> </u> work in progress | <u> </u> educational |
| <u> </u> site | Public Acquisition | Accessible | <u> </u> entertainment |
| <u> </u> object | <u> </u> in process | <u> X </u> yes: restricted | <u> </u> government |
| | <u> </u> being considered | <u> </u> yes: unrestricted | <u> </u> industrial |
| | <u> X </u> not applicable | <u> </u> no | <u> </u> military |
| | | | <u> </u> museum |
| | | | <u> </u> park |
| | | | <u> </u> private residence |
| | | | <u> </u> religious |
| | | | <u> </u> scientific |
| | | | <u> </u> transportation |
| | | | <u> </u> other: |

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Adwin Realty Company

street & number Airport Business Center
300 Stevens Drive

telephone no.: (215) 595-1070

city, town Lester _____ state and zip code PA, 19113

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Cecil County Court House _____ liber NDS-287

street & number Main Street _____ folio 914

city, town Elkton _____ state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title _____

date _____ federal state county local

pository for survey records _____

city, town _____ state _____

7. Description

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Condition

☐ excellent

☐ good

☒ fair

☐ deteriorated

☐ ruins

☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered

☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site

☐ moved

date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

See continuation sheet.

8. Significance

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| Period | Areas of Significance—Check and justify below | | | |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> community planning | <input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> religion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499 | <input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic | <input type="checkbox"/> conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> law | <input type="checkbox"/> science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> literature | <input type="checkbox"/> sculpture |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> education | <input type="checkbox"/> military | <input type="checkbox"/> social/ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> art | <input type="checkbox"/> engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> music | <input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899 | <input type="checkbox"/> commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement | <input type="checkbox"/> philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> theater |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900- | <input type="checkbox"/> communications | <input type="checkbox"/> industry | <input type="checkbox"/> politics/government | <input type="checkbox"/> transportation |
| | | <input type="checkbox"/> invention | | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify) |

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

check: Applicable Criteria: ☒ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

See continuation sheet.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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See continuation sheet.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 190Quadrangle name ElktonQuadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Verbal boundary description and justification

See continuation sheet.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
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| state | code | county | code |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|-------|------|--------|------|

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Rebecca Siders, Research Associateorganization Center for Historic Architecture and Engineering
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The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
1 514-7600

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National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Located on the west side of Route 213, the Mitchell-Crowgey Farm contains approximately 190 acres and stretches from Whitehall Road on the north to Frenchtown Road on the south. The farm complex sits back approximately 0.2 miles from Route 213, approached by a farm lane marked by tall cedars at the entrance.

The Mitchell-Crowgey House is a five-bay, two-and-a-half story, center-hall-plan structure. Built of balloon frame construction, the building's exterior is clad in stretcher-bond patterned brick applied over an original shiplap siding exterior. The main body of the house is square with a shiplap-sided ell projecting from the rear, northwest corner. Its current configuration has been achieved through a succession of additions to an original block.

The structure sits upon a stone foundation that is clad in brick at grade level. On the front (east) elevation, a single dormer pierces the raised-seam hipped roof between two corbelled interior chimneys that mark the walls of the center-hall passage inside. A two-story, full-length porch with doric columns and frieze spans the front elevation. The front corner boards are treated as pilasters.

A boxwood-lined walk leads to the front porch. The front entrance is a wood door with four recessed panels flanked by a transom and sidelights. A fifteen-light storm door protects the main door. An architrave and pilasters form the door surround. Overhanging the front entrance is a small, oriental-style porch accessed from a centrally-placed door on the second story. The front windows are regularly spaced, six-over-six double-hung sash, capped with jack arches. This is the predominant window form throughout the house.

The south elevation exhibits irregular form and fenestration. Brick steps lead up to an enclosed, one-story sun porch that extends from the southeast corner of the main block. The walkway leading to the sun porch terminates on the southwest side against a two-story, two-over-two bow window. Evidence such as the changes in brick color and mortar joint width, and interrupted window trim indicate that the sun porch and walkway post-date the bow window.

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Two irregularly positioned dormers are present on the roof of this elevation.

The rear (or west) elevation consists of three bays grouped in the center of the facade. The centrally-placed door is flanked by a six-over-six window. Three second-story six-over-six windows line up with the fenestration below. The door is wood with four panels located on the lower two-thirds of its surface; two rows of three lights exist in the top section. A two-pane transom light is present over the entrance. The elevated placement of the entrance (three-and-a-half feet above grade) indicates the former presence of a porch. A water table extends from the bow window on the south around the length of the west side. Cut into the water table on each side of the door is a cellar window. Attached at the northwest corner of the main house is a two-story, shiplap-sided, gambrel-roofed ell that may pre-date the main house. As on the front elevation, a dormer window is centered between two corbelled chimneys, but the chimneys visible from the rear lie along the rear wall of the house rather than being placed perpendicular to the elevation along an interior wall.

Like the south elevation, the north side possess an irregular form and fenestration pattern. Located on the north elevation and abutted by the ell, is a one-story porch with doric columns. A decorative cast iron rail leads up the steps to the entry. The door, now partially boarded over, appears to be more recent than the other entrances. It is flanked on each side by a six-over-six window. The three openings on the second floor parallel the first-floor fenestration pattern. On the east side of the porch is a narrow, four-over-four window that illuminates the interior bathroom. The other windows on this side are the typical six-over-six type found on the majority of the house. Two irregularly-placed dormers pierce the hipped roof.

The Mitchell-Crowgey House exhibits at least four periods of construction that are depicted on the measured drawings of the building. The initial configuration (circa 1840-50) was a two-and-a-half story, 20' x 40', center-hall-plan, single-pile house with a gable roof, clad in shiplap siding. Five frieze windows across the front elevation illuminated the attic level. A

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bulkhead entrance to the cellar was located at the rear of the building on the northwest corner.

Second period construction extended the foundation to 40' x 30'. A one- or two-story addition was constructed off the rear elevation, probably with a porch on the north side. In the cellar, the bulkhead entrance was moved to the north side of the house.

In the third phase of construction, the building was squared off by the replacement of the porch (if present) with a room on the northwest corner. At this time the rear section was raised to two-and-a-half stories and covered with a hipped roof. The newly-constructed west elevation had three dormers centered on the fenestration below. The original, front block maintained its gable roof with frieze windows at the attic level. It is also at this time (1880s/1890s) that the bow window was added on the south elevation.

The building achieved its current configuration during the 1920s or 1930s. The frieze windows in the attic were removed and a hipped roof was extended over the entire building. One dormer window was added on the front and two were removed on the rear elevation; two dormer windows appeared on each of the side elevations. The shiplap siding was covered over by a stretcher bond brick skin and the sun porch added on the south elevation. The overall affect of this phase of construction was to give the building a unified appearance by disguising the succession of building periods. During this period of construction, the interior of the building also underwent an extensive renovation. All of the current interior trim and moldings date to this renovation.

It is not certain when the rear ell, a formerly independent dwelling, was attached. The fact that the brick skin is continuous across the connecting hallway indicates that it was constructed either before or during the twentieth century renovation. The ell consists of a late-eighteenth or early-nineteenth century, two-story, three-room plan, gambrel-roofed frame structure. Clad in shiplap siding, each of the main facades includes two nine-over-nine windows flanking a recessed, six-paneled door. On each side, three irregularly-placed dormers punctuate the roof. A small chimney is located at the west end of the ell to service the twentieth-century

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heating system. The ell is currently occupied by tenants and access is limited, but it appears that, like the main house, its interior has been heavily altered as well. Early twentieth-century tongue-in-groove wainscotting is present and a cement floor has been added in at least one section.

Part of the 1920s/1930s modification included the extensive renovation of the interior of the main house. All of the original moldings and trim, including banister and rail, appear to have been replaced. The current woodwork and details are consistent throughout the building and are to be attributed to the 1930s renovation. Entering the house, through the front entrance into the hall, the staircase is located on the right of the center passage. The dimensions of the hall and the two rooms, one on each side of the hall, make up the outline of the original, first-period block.

Reeded molding, five inches in width, surrounds the front door and the side room entrances. The simple baseboard molding stands nine inches high. Unless otherwise noted, all other trims and moldings throughout the house are either identical, or very similar, to those in this section. The walls throughout the house are lath and plaster covered with wallpaper and the flooring is two-inch tongue-in-groove pine.

Fourteen steps lead up to the second-floor landing. Eight inches at the base, the newel post is octagonally-shaped and heavily varnished. The turned balusters have been painted. In the back of the stairbox is the entrance to the cellar. Near the cellar door, at the rear of the front hall, the main block adjoins the current kitchen. Both the cellar and kitchen entrances have recessed, four-panel doors with ceramic knobs. The majority of interior doors throughout the house are of this type.

Two doors, one near the front door and one in back of the stair case, enter into the room on the north side of the hall. On the room's interior, these doors flank each side of the projecting chimney breast and fireplace, located on the south wall. The door on the west side of the fireplace is different than the type predominant in the house. The bottom two-thirds are

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paneled, but twenty-four small lights occupy the top third. A door leading from the kitchen to the rear ell exhibits the same style. The fireplace in the north front room has been heavily altered and now exhibits a brick surround. The room contains three windows, two on the east (front) wall, with radiators underneath, and one on the south wall.

Originally, the room on the south side of the hall probably mirrored the north room. The window arrangement and projecting chimney breast are presently the only similarities in form. A drop in ceiling height and ghosting on the wall indicate the removal of an original exterior wall and the extension of the room towards the rear of the house. A double fifteen-light, wood and glass door separates this room from another one used as a dining room. On the south wall, a door similar to the one that separates the expanded front room from the dining room leads to the enclosed sun porch. Windows run the entire perimeter of this room, with the exception of a door to the exterior on the west wall. Woodwork in the sun porch is simpler than in the rest of the house. In addition, the floor boards have a different, shinier finish and run east/west versus the north/south direction of the rest of the downstairs flooring.

The dining room is located on the southwest corner of the building. On the south wall, the room extends into a full-height bow window. An enclosed fireplace is located on the west wall, topped by a large mirrored overmantle with decorative surrounds. The mantle is painted wood with shallow floral carvings. An enclosed cupboard closet with shelves is located on the south side of the fireplace. A simply-worked chair rail lines the room's perimeter and separates two styles of wallpaper above and below. On the north wall, a door leads into the kitchen.

The increased wall thickness (possibly due to installation of indoor plumbing) and evidence of a removed screen door on the kitchen interior indicate that the wall between the dining room and the kitchen may have been an exterior wall. Two doors in the kitchen lead directly to the outside; one on the west wall on the left side of the fireplace and another leading to the side porch on the north side. The fireplace has been enlarged and is non-functional. On the right side of the fireplace is a doorway and steps leading into the rear ell. This door is the

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same style as the door in the southwest corner of the north room. Adjacent to the passage to the ell is a door enclosing a winder staircase leading to the second story. The sink and appliances are located opposite the fireplace, against a wall separating a small pantry and bathroom. Floor ghosting and holes for plumbing indicate that the appliance area was originally located on the east wall, between the pantry entrance and the entry from the front hall.

On the second floor, the rooms of the original block mirror those below. In the north and south rooms, the chimney stacks include enclosed stove flues instead of fireplaces. The mantles are wood with simple, shallow carvings. Mantles, doors, and woodwork are consistent with the first level, but floor treatment differs on the second floor. The boards, still tongue-in-groove, are wider (five inches) and have been painted.

Moving out of the original block into the back of the house, the floor drops, though the finish is consistent. On the right (north) side of the back hall are two rooms. The first, accessible from either the north front bedroom or the hall, is illuminated by two windows on the north wall, a regular-sized six-over-six and a narrower four-over-four.

On the west wall of this room, a door leads into the second room. This is also accessible via the stairs leading up from the kitchen. The form of this room has been truncated by the stairs leading to the attic, the rise of the chimney stack on the southwest corner and the junction with the rear ell which occurs at this point. Five steps lead down to the second-story entrance into the ell.

Between this room and the rear hall is a bathroom. Finished with tongue-in-groove wainscotting and claw and ball bathtub, it is apparent that it was part of the circa 1930s renovation. Located on the south side of the rear hall are a small hall closet and the entrance into a bedroom. The bedroom, located over the dining room, has a full-height bow window on the south wall. A closet is located on the east wall and a bathroom has been added in the northwest corner. The claw and ball tub and other fixtures similar to those in the other

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bathroom date this to the early twentieth century as well. The heating system consists of two radiators located in the bow. All finishes and trim are consistent with the rest of the building.

The partially-finished attic level reveals significant information about the evolution of the building. In the rooms over the original block, missing studs on the east wall provide the locational evidence for the frieze windows still stored in the attic. Due to the raising of the roof in the twentieth century, it is possible to detect the presence of the original shiplap siding. A remaining rafter in the south room of the original block gives evidence of a former gable roof, and the presence of slate tiles indicates this as the original roofing material. In the rear addition, finished plaster walls rise to a height of four feet, yet the ceiling is at a higher level. These walls date to the third period of construction when the back of the building was raised to two-and-a-half stories with a hipped roof. Rafters from the first hipped roof remain in place in the attic. The height of the plaster walls also reflect the height of this hipped roof. When a higher hipped roof was extended over the entire house, these walls were never raised.

Shiplap siding was also present on the back extension and can be felt by reaching over the plate. The boards on the rear section are thinner and the divots shallower than those on the front of the house, indicating that the siding went up at a later period. Other evidence of building change is the stud spacing around the perimeter of the back section. The changing intervals suggest the presence of an earlier set of dormer windows. The present dormers date from the alterations in the 1930s. In addition, the rear chimneys show two periods of brickwork: the original stack and later work to make the appearance of the rear chimneys match those in the front of the building. Additional evidence suggesting that the first rear extension existed as one story is the presence of a corner post, located at the northwest corner of the southwest room, that stops at the first floor level.

The core of the Mitchell-Crowgey House is a mid-nineteenth-century building. During the second half of the nineteenth century and the first third of the twentieth century multiple periods of rebuilding and renovation occurred. The specific changes described here represent

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those for which some form of physical architectural evidence exists. It is entirely possible that additional changes also occurred but were completely obliterated by later construction.

Outbuildings

Several surviving outbuildings contribute to the significance of the Mitchell-Crowgey Farm. The descriptions are keyed to the site plan by identification number.

The smokehouse (2) is located twenty-two feet away from the north side of the main house. Dating from the mid-nineteenth century, this square structure measures sixteen feet by fourteen feet, and has a pyramidal roof with a centrally-located louvered cupola. Constructed of brick, the walls are one foot and one inch thick at the base. The entrance, a beaded board door, is located on the south side of the structure. The hardware is wrought iron and a lock box is located on the interior of the door. Diamond-patterned ventilation holes are present in the upper portion of the north and south sides. A bulkhead cellar entrance is located to the right side of the door on the south side. The cellar walls are stone and the cellar has a depth of approximately six feet. The floor is obscured by silt, but appears to be earthen. No evidence is present as to the original function of the cellar. Nails for hanging meat are present on the interior roof framing members. The timber framing is heavily blackened from smoke, and constructed in a manner that allowed the cupola to be sealed during the preservation process.

The only other surviving outbuilding with a domestic purpose is a nine foot by ten foot six inch well house (4) approximately 165 feet west of the main dwelling that dates to the early twentieth century. Constructed of cast rubble with a pyramidal roof, the well house contains a brick-lined well approximately four feet in diameter. A door on the southern elevation provides access to the interior which is illuminated by a single window in the west wall. The interior of the structure is roughly finished with a beaded, tongue-in-groove ceiling and earthen floor.

Three agricultural outbuildings, all dating from the first quarter of the twentieth century, survive in the fields to the north of the dwelling. Additionally, foundations of five other

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buildings indicate the original configuration of the farming complex (see site plan). The first is a twenty by ninety-five foot dairy barn (3) located north and slightly west of the dwelling complex. Constructed of concrete block with shingled gambrel roof, the barn is one-and-one-half stories in height. The upper gable structure is of wood frame with centrally located doors on each end. The western portion originally housed dairy cattle and the bases of concrete stalls are still apparent. The eastern portion of the building shows no evidence of stalls, and possibly served as storage for farm equipment.

One hundred and seventy feet north of this structure is a second barn (6) measuring thirty-four by one hundred and thirty feet. Of frame construction and sheathed in corrugated metal, this building is topped by a gable roof covered with the same material. The interior is filled with baled hay making an interior description difficult. The original function of this barn cannot be determined.

A metal sheathed, frame granary (7) lies an additional one hundred feet north of the second barn. Measuring twenty-four feet square, this building is separated into four grain bins joined by a centrally-located, longitudinal aisle. The bins are of an open design with slatted walls to allow air circulation. A door provides access to the aisle on the east and west elevations of the granary. The bins are accessed from hatches in the roof. Small doors, near the sill of each bin, allowed the removal of either loose grain or corn.

About twenty-five feet east of the granary is the foundation of a building that can only be interpreted as a milking room (8). The five foot tall, concrete foundation is pierced by four windows on both the north and south walls, but no doorways allow entry to the building from the ground. The structure sitting on this foundation was of frame construction, evidenced by anchor bolts, but no other evidence survives as to the size and massing of this building.

The foundations of three large barns delineate the limits of the developed farm complex. Furthest north are a series of piers defining a one hundred and twelve foot by fifty-two foot structure (11). The absence of stalls, and the distance from supposed milking rooms

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implies that this structure served as hay storage, or for the protection of farm equipment. To the extreme west of the complex, the remains of a twenty by eight-eight foot dairy barn (5) are present. A single row of stalls along the southern wall housed approximately forty head of cattle. A barn foundation of similar design (9), although slightly larger and measuring twenty-five by one hundred and forth-five feet, lies to the east of the other structures. Nearby, a ten by twenty foot structure (10) once stood. Its size and location, adjacent to a dairy barn and close to the farm road, indicates that it may have housed milking equipment.

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The Mitchell-Crowgey Farm possesses significance in terms of the criteria established by the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A as an example of early twentieth-century dairy farming in the region and in the context of agricultural tenancy, and under Criterion C as an example of the repetitive cycle of rebuilding and reuse of agricultural complexes, particularly in its current architectural style. The surviving buildings on the complex and the documentary record for the property support each of these three themes.

The earliest identifiable records for the roughly 190-acre farm link it to Andrew F. Henderson, a resident of Baltimore who owned extensive landholdings in Baltimore and in Cecil County. Henderson died intestate in 1842, leaving a widow and seven children: Julianna, William Ward, Thomas Frisby, Susan, Ellen, Lavinia, and Amelia (married to James Barroll). Administration records for the estate between 1842 and 1844 document a history of tenants occupying Henderson's Cecil County properties. The occupant of the Mitchell-Crowgey property between 1841 and 1844 may have been either Boulden Biddle, a local farmer and landowner, or Ann Reese, probably the widow of Thomas Reese, also a farmer. Both paid rent to the estate for farms; the notes regarding Rees label her farm as "the farm near French Town," but several of Henderson's properties lay in that vicinity and the label is not conclusive. The exact date of construction for the dwelling and outbuildings cannot be determined from documentary records at this time. Architectural evidence in the house itself suggests that the original section of the dwelling suggests a construction date sometime in the 1840s or 1850s, but the wing on the rear may represent an earlier structure for the site. The records for Boulden Biddle indicate that he lived on his own land while renting a piece of farmland from Henderson. Whether the land he rented contained a dwelling cannot be established. Ann Reese lived on the farm she leased, in a house that required repairs during her occupancy. Among other things, the administrators of the estate hired Edmund Brown to raise the dwelling by half a story in 1843. Again, the documents do not clearly identify this dwelling as the present Mitchell-Crowgey House and may in fact refer to an

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earlier building on the same site, or to a building on a different farm. All of Henderson's farms focused on the production of cash crops such as wheat and corn during this period; part of the sale of the crops went to the estate as a rental payment.¹

The occupation of the farm by tenants continued after the settlement of Henderson's estate. In 1844 the Chancery Court supervised a division of Henderson's real estate that awarded the land for the present-day Mitchell-Crowgey Farm to Henderson's daughter, Julianna Henderson.² Tenancy represented a common characteristic of agricultural life in the mid-nineteenth century, when tenants occupied as many as one-half of the agricultural properties in neighboring New Castle County, Delaware. Julianna Henderson apparently never lived on the farm herself, preferring to rent it for income. When she sold the 177-acre farm to Henry Hooper Mitchell, a physician in Elkton, in 1853, Boulden Biddle occupied the property and had done so for some length of time.³ A tax assessment for Henderson's property, taken that same year, indicates that the farm contained a frame house and barn.⁴ Mitchell owned the farm until his death in 1896 but never occupied the land himself. He maintained a residence in the nearby town of Elkton while operating his medical practice, acquiring other real estate, and periodically serving public offices such as Clerk of the Circuit Court. Mitchell apparently rented his real estate to a variety of relatives and other local residents. Boulden Biddle probably remained as the tenant on the farm until his death in 1856, only three years after Mitchell purchased the land. Biddle's inventory, taken shortly after his death, indicated the intensive level of agricultural production occurring on his lands. In addition to

¹ Andrew F. Henderson administration accounts, Baltimore County, 1843-1846; Volume 43 p. 416; Volume 45 pp. 57, 214, and 431; Volume 46 pp. 50, 72, 73, 295; Volume 47 p. 136.

² Decision in Court of Chancery, Plots, James & Amelia Barroll vs. Lavinia, Julianna, William Ward, Susan, Thomas Frisby, and Ellen Henderson, Volume 163 p. 727, July 1844.

³ Deed from Julianna Henderson to Henry H. Mitchell, Cecil County Recorder of Deeds, HHM-2-185, 1853.

⁴ Cecil County Tax Assessment, 1853; Historic Society of Cecil County, Elkton, Maryland.

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working Mitchell's farm, Biddle owned two other pieces of farm land. Agricultural implements inventoried and sold during the settlement of his estate included six plows, six cultivators, a cider mill, three harrows, eight trees for harnessing livestock, and a multitude of rakes, hay forks, manure forks, spades, shovels, scythes, hoes, wheel barrows, harness gear, axes, augers, and other items such as barrels, posts, chains, and saws. Biddle's livestock numbered two pairs of oxen and steers, two bulls, eleven cows, four calves, forty-two pigs and hogs, and six horses.⁵ The value of the agricultural tools and livestock represented a significant portion of Biddle's property, indicating the high priority agricultural production played in his life.

In the late 1870s, Mrs. A.E. Mitchell occupied the farm; when Henry Mitchell died in 1896, his nephew W. Arthur Mitchell tenanted the property.⁶ The younger Mitchell inherited the farm under his uncle's will and remained on it with his family until 1908. Henry Mitchell also bequeathed to his nephew all of the personal property and agricultural equipment on the farm at the time of Henry's death. According to the inventory of his estate, that encompassed one pair of mules, one yoke of oxen, one mule, five horses, an ox cart and a farm wagon, a seeder, a grain fan, barrel and hand shellers, a McCormick mower, a Deering Binder, three two-horse cultivators, four plows, a six-horse engine, a thresher, a hay loader, a roller, assorted shovels, rakes, harrows, forks, saws, and harness. Mitchell's harvested crops included hay (22 tons), white corn (800 bushels), wheat (1000 bushels), oats (800 bushels), oat straw (20 tons), as well as twenty-eight acres of corn in shocks, thirty acres of corn in the ground, and fifty-eight acres of fodder.⁷ Like Biddle's account in 1853, this inventory indicates that the Mitchells invested considerable amounts of principal in acquiring the most effective equipment and means of production to keep themselves competitive

⁵ Boulden Biddle probate records, 1856, Cecil County Court House, Register of Wills.

⁶ Atlas by Lake, Griffing & Stevenson, 1877; Will of Henry Hooper Mitchell, 1896, Cecil County Court House, Register of Wills.

⁷ Henry Hooper Mitchell probate records, 1896, Cecil County Court House, Register of Wills.

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in the agricultural market.

W. Arthur Mitchell and his wife, Mary E., kept the farm for twelve years. It is probable that many of the early changes in the house occurred during the Mitchell ownership period (both Henry Hooper and W. Arthur), but we cannot pinpoint definite dates for those renovations. Tax assessments for the farm through the second half of the nineteenth century fail to describe the buildings in any detail, and the papers recording the transfer of the property to W. Arthur Mitchell after Henry's death omit any description of the improvements. In 1908 the Mitchells sold the farm to Laurance Levy of Philadelphia, along with another farm of 150 acres inherited from Henry H. Mitchell. Levy held the farm for only ten years, probably as a tenant property, until he sold it to Horatio B. Crowgey of Wytheville, Virginia, in 1918. The Crowgeys brought a history of dairy farming with them when they arrived in Cecil County. During this period both Cecil County and its neighbor New Castle County saw a rise in dairy farming as farmers attempted to find new ways to use the large tracts of land once covered with wheat and corn. Dairy farming presented an attractive alternative to competing with the rising wheat belt in the Midwest or growing fruits and vegetables for market and canning. The Crowgey family held the land as a dairy farm, known as Elkton Farms, for most of the twentieth century, passing it through two more generations. During their ownership, the Crowgey family conducted the extensive renovations in the 1920s or 1930s that caused the house to acquire its current appearance. They also constructed most of the outbuildings that remain on the property, including the dairy barns, granary, and foundations that mark the locations of milking areas and other dairy production support facilities. The brick smokehouse located near the dwelling dates to a much earlier period, probably the mid-nineteenth century, when the farm focused on a combination of grains such as wheat and corn with livestock to supplement the family diet. In 1989 the Crowgeys sold the farm to its present owner, Adwin Realty, along with a second parcel of land lying on the east side of Route 213. The rear wing of the farm dwelling is currently occupied by tenants and the farm land is leased to a local farmer for pasturing cattle.

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Boundary Description

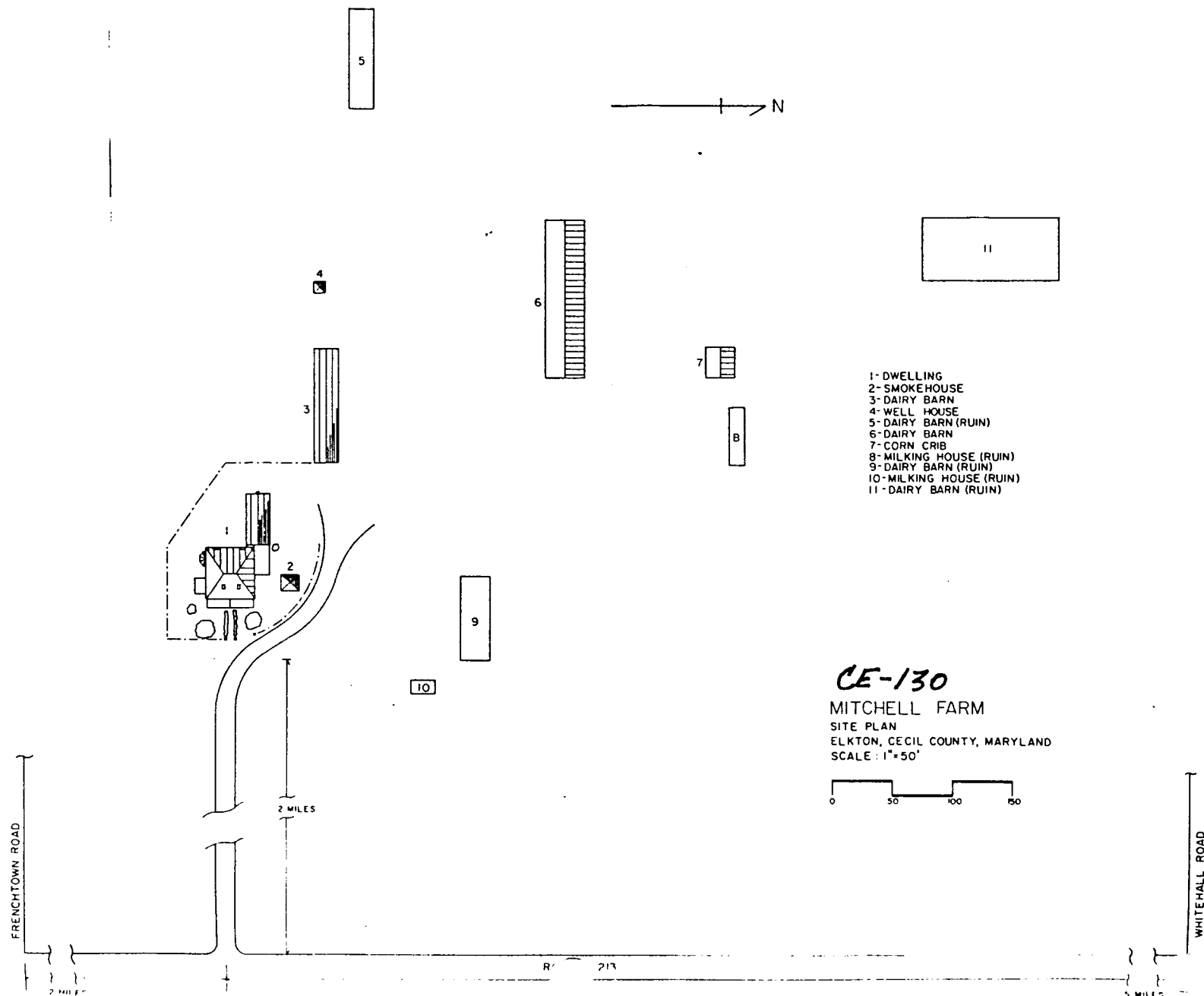
A formal description of the boundary of the Mitchell-Crowgey Farm can be found in the deed of transfer from the Crowgey heirs to Adwin Realty. Roughly speaking, the farm consists of approximately 190 acres bounded on the east by Route 213, on the north by Whitehall Road, on the south by Frenchtown Road, and on the west by privately owned land.

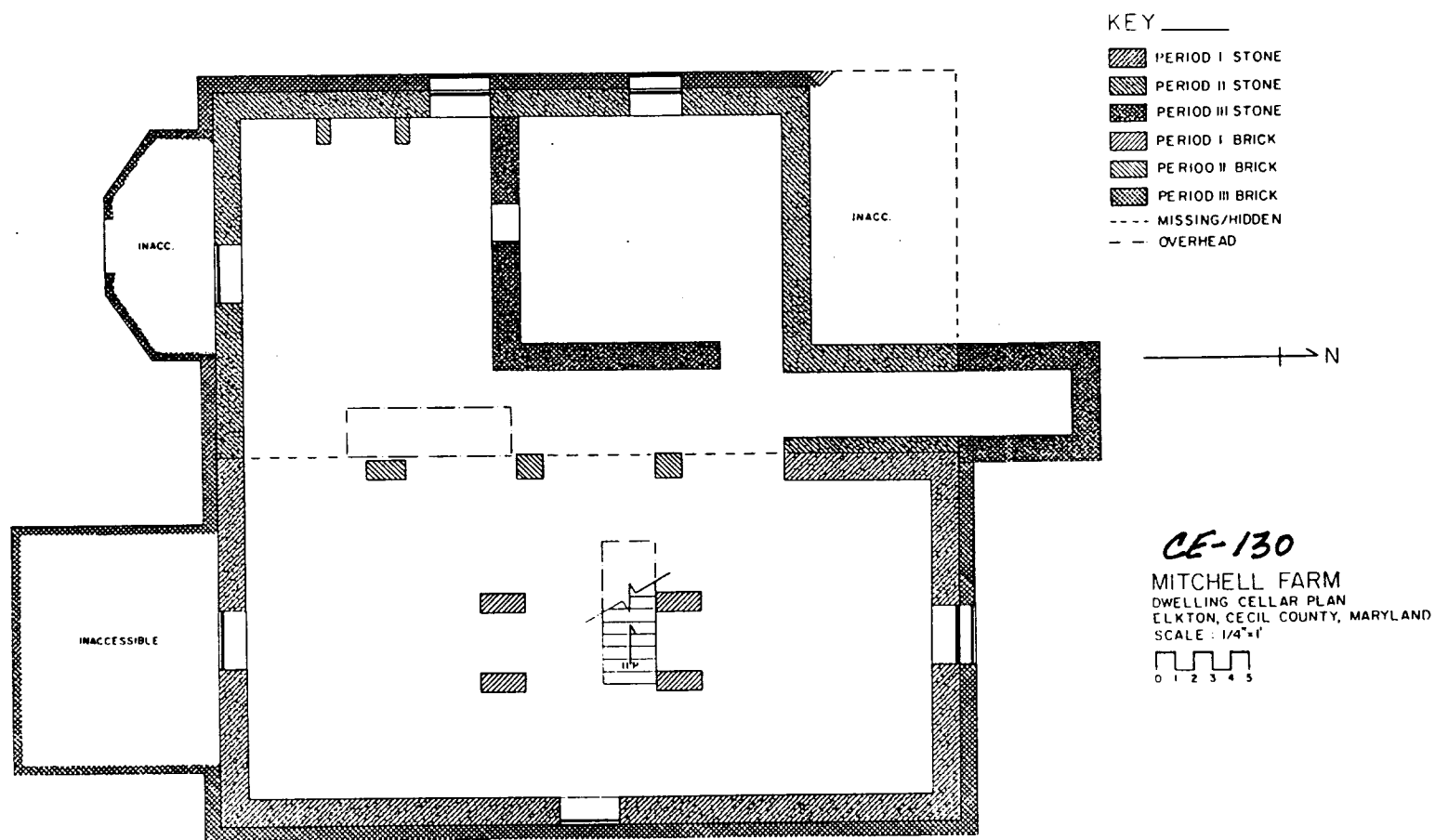
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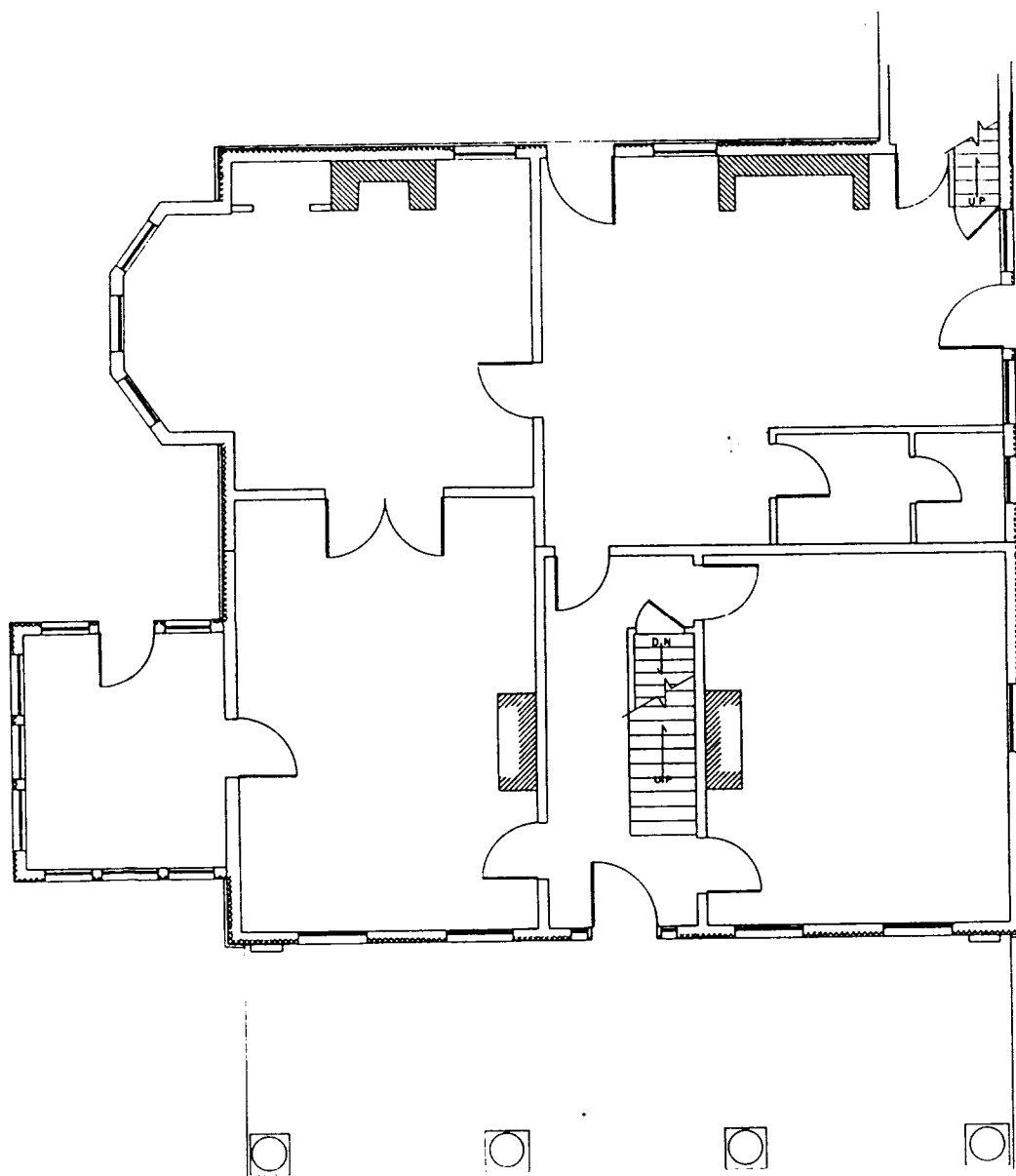
Form 10-445
(5/62)

| | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 1. STATE <u>Maryland</u> COUNTY <u>Cecil County</u> TOWN <u>Elkton</u> VICINITY <u>Elkton</u> STREET NO. <u>Off Rt. 213 on Whitehall Rd</u> ORIGINAL OWNER <u>3LK 10/17/93</u> ORIGINAL USE <u>dwelling</u> <u>CHNS</u> PRESENT OWNER <u>H.B. Crowgey Sr.</u> PRESENT USE <u>dwelling</u> WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>Brick</u> NO. OF STORIES <u>2 1/2</u> | | HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY CE-130 INVENTORY 2. NAME <u>White Hall or Elkton Farms</u> DATE OR PERIOD <u>mid 19th Century</u> STYLE ARCHITECT BUILDER 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE | |
| 4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION <p>White Hall was originally a log building where the present kitchen is located. The main portion, a two and one half story brick building is five bays long and two rooms deep beneath a hipped roof. There is a dormer on each hip of the roof and and the two chimneys are near the center of the roof. Across the facade is a two story portico with a second floor balcony over the front door entrance which has transom and sidelights. There is a large addition to the rear with gambrel roof.</p> | | OPEN TO PUBLIC <u>NO</u> | |
| 5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered <u>No</u> Interior <u>good</u> Exterior <u>good</u> | | | |
| 6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)  | | 7. PHOTOGRAPH <u>Colon 3188</u> | |
| 8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC. <u>The Upper Shennandoah, March, 1965</u> | | 9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <u>Michael Bourne</u> <u>Maryland Historical Trust</u> DATE OF RECORD <u>April 16, 1968</u> | |

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE










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CE-130

MITCHELL FARM
DWELLING FIRST FLOOR PLAN
ELKTON, CECIL COUNTY, MARYLAND
SCALE: 1/4" = 1'

0 1 2 3 4 5

KEY _____

-  PERIOD I BRICK
-  PERIOD II BRICK
-  PERIOD III BRICK

